

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability for Claims 1, 3, 6, 9, and 16-22.

Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claim 7 now recites the feature of allowable Claim 1 that the control means controls the hydraulic device so that the slip rotation speed matches the predetermined slip rotation speed if the slip rotation speed calculated by the calculation portion is less than the predetermined slip rotation speed during the downshift of the automatic transmission.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent publication 2002/0175036 (Takatori et al). Claim 7 now recites the feature of allowable claim 1 that the control means controls the hydraulic device so that the slip rotation speed matches the predetermined slip rotation speed if the slip rotation speed calculated by the calculation portion is less than the predetermined slip rotation speed during the downshift of the automatic transmission. This feature of allowable Claim 1 is not taught in Takatori et al, and so amended Claim 7 is also believed to be allowable.

Additionally, it is noted that Claim 7 now recites “control means configured to control the hydraulic device so that the oil pressure of the lockup clutch becomes constant if the slip rotation speed calculated by the calculation means is greater than a predetermined rotation speed during a downshift of the automatic transmission.” Takatori et al had previously been applied in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in the Office Action of July 28, 2004. That Office action stated (p. 3) that “Takatori et al do not disclose the following: ‘the controller is adapted to calculate the slip rotation speed of the lockup clutch, and control the hydraulic device so that the oil pressure of the lockup clutch becomes constant if the slip rotation speed calculated is greater than a predetermined rotation speed during a downshift of the automatic transmission.’” Since Claim 7 also recites this feature which the Office Action of July 28,

2004 indicated is not taught in Takatori et al, it is respectfully submitted that, for this reason as well, amended Claim 7 defines over this reference.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

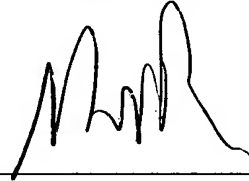
Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Pous', is written over a horizontal line.

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